

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 7-11, in the following manner:

~~The present invention~~ This disclosure generally relates to image forming apparatuses and, more particularly, to a sheet conveyance apparatus for conveying sheets using a conveyance belt and an image forming apparatus using such a sheet conveyance apparatus.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 6, line 25 through page 13, line 2, in the following manner:

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION SUMMARY

~~It is a general object of the present invention to provide an improved and useful sheet conveyance apparatus and image forming apparatus in which the above-mentioned problems are eliminated.~~

~~A more specific object of the present invention is to provide~~ In an aspect of this disclosure, there is provided a sheet conveyance apparatus and image forming apparatus that can convey a recording sheet in a stable condition irrespective of a kind of ~~[[the]]~~ material of the recording sheet.

~~In order to achieve the above-mentioned objects~~ In another aspect of this disclosure, there is provided ~~according to one aspect of the present invention~~ a sheet conveyance apparatus for conveying a sheet by attaching the sheet onto an endless conveyance belt by applying electric charges onto a surface of the conveyance belt, the sheet conveyance apparatus comprising: a charger that charges the surface of the conveyance belt in a belt-like alternate voltage pattern; and a control part that controls a charge width of the alternate voltage pattern in a direction of conveyance of the sheet.

~~According to the present invention~~ In an exemplary embodiment, the control part controls the charge width (or charge pitch) of the charge voltage pattern formed on the conveyance belt. Thus, the conveyance belt can be charged with an appropriate charge width (or charge pitch), thereby achieving a stable conveyance of the sheet such as a recording paper.

In the sheet conveyance apparatus according to ~~the present invention~~ an exemplary embodiment, the control part may control the charge width in accordance with a type of the sheet. The sheet conveyance apparatus may further comprise a sheet-type input part that inputs information regarding the type of the sheet to the control part.

Additionally, in the above-mentioned sheet conveyance apparatus, information regarding the type of the sheet may be given externally. The control part may control the charge width so that the charge width when the sheet contains a resin is smaller than the charge width when the sheet contains no resin. The control part may control the charge width so that the charge width when a surface resistivity of the sheet is equal to or smaller than $1 \times 10^{10} \Omega/\square$ is set to be substantially equal to or greater than 4 mm and substantially equal to or smaller than 30 mm, and the charge width when a surface resistivity of the sheet is greater than $1 \times 10^{10} \Omega/\square$ is set to be equal to or greater than 2 mm and equal to or smaller than 8 mm.

In the sheet conveyance apparatus according to ~~the present invention~~ an exemplary embodiment, the conveyance belt may have a two-layer structure comprising an insulating layer as an obverse layer and a medium resistance layer as a backside layer. A surface resistivity of the insulating layer may be substantially equal to or greater than $1 \times 10^{10} \Omega/\square$, and a surface resistivity of the medium resistance layer may be substantially equal to or smaller than $1 \times 10^8 \Omega/\square$. Additionally, a thickness of the insulating layer may be substantially equal to or smaller than 60 μm , and a thickness of the backside layer may be substantially equal to or greater than 40 μm . A volume resistivity of a roller with which the conveyance belt is engaged may be substantially equal to or smaller than $1 \times 10^{10} \Omega\text{-cm}$.

Additionally, the sheet conveyance apparatus according to ~~the present invention~~ an exemplary embodiment may further comprise a discharger that removes or attenuates the charges on the surface of the conveyance belt, wherein the discharger may be located on an obverse side of the conveyance belt and a position out of an area where the sheet is brought into contact with the conveyance belt.

Further, in the sheet conveyance apparatus according to ~~the present invention~~ an exemplary embodiment, the control part may control a charged area of the conveyance belt when a surface resistivity of the sheet is substantially equal to or greater than $1 \times 10^{12} \Omega/\square$ so that at least one of a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion of the sheet is attached onto the conveyance belt, the leading edge portion being a range from a leading edge of the sheet to a position substantially equal to or less than 50 mm from the leading edge and the trailing edge portion being a range from a trailing edge of the sheet to a position substantially equal to or less than 100 mm from the trailing edge.

Additionally, in the sheet conveyance apparatus according to ~~the present invention~~ an exemplary embodiment, the control part may ~~controls~~ control the charge ~~[[with]]~~ width so that the charge width is changed in accordance with a distance from a leading edge of the sheet.

Additionally, there is provided according to another aspect of ~~the present invention~~ this disclosure an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet conveyed by a sheet conveyance apparatus conveying a sheet by attaching the sheet onto an endless conveyance belt by applying electric charges onto a surface of the conveyance belt, the sheet conveyance apparatus comprising: a charger that charges the surface of the conveyance belt in a belt-like alternate voltage pattern; and a control part that controls a charge width of the alternate voltage pattern in a direction of conveyance of the sheet.

Since the image forming apparatus ~~according to the present invention~~ has the above-mentioned sheet conveyance apparatus, the conveyance of the sheet is stabilized, which improves an image quality.

In the above-mentioned image forming apparatus ~~according to the present invention~~, the conveyance belt may be charged before the sheet is fed to the conveyance belt. A charging operation to the conveyance belt may be stopped while an image is being formed on the sheet, and the charging operation may be performed on the conveyance belt when conveying the sheet by a specific distance.

In the above-mentioned image forming apparatus ~~according to the present invention~~, a polarity of each charge in the voltage pattern may be changed in

accordance with an amount of movement of the conveyance belt when the sheet is conveyed by the specific distance. The charge width of the voltage pattern may be an integral multiple of an amount of movement of the conveyance belt when conveying the sheet by the specific distance.

Additionally, there is provided according to another aspect of ~~the present invention~~ this disclosure an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet conveyed by a sheet conveyance apparatus conveying the sheet by attaching the sheet onto an endless conveyance belt by applying electric charges onto a surface of the conveyance belt, the sheet conveyance apparatus comprising: a charger that charges the surface of the conveyance belt in a belt like alternate voltage pattern; a storing part that stores a relationship between a type of the sheet and a charge width of the alternate voltage pattern to be formed on the conveyance belt; and a control part that controls a charge width of the alternate voltage pattern in a direction of conveyance of the sheet in accordance with the type of the sheet based on the relationship stored in the storing part.

Further, there is provided according to another aspect of ~~the present invention~~ this disclosure a method for conveying a sheet by attaching the sheet onto an endless conveyance belt by applying electric charges onto a surface of the conveyance belt, comprising: charging the surface of the conveyance belt in a belt-like alternate voltage pattern; and controlling a charge width of the alternate voltage pattern in a direction of conveyance of the sheet in accordance with a type of the sheet based on a relationship between a type of the sheet and a charge width of the alternate voltage pattern to be formed on the conveyance belt.

Other ~~objects~~ aspects, features and advantages of ~~the present invention~~ will become more apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.